

CLAIMS

1. A cage or an item of cage furniture for use by a caged animal, the cage or cage furniture comprising a material which is transparent or translucent to a human observer, but is perceived as being substantially darkened or opaque by the caged animal.
2. A cage or an item of cage furniture according to claim 1, wherein the cage or item of cage furniture is substantially or entirely formed from a substance which is transparent or translucent to a human observer but substantially darkened or opaque to the caged animal.
3. A cage or an item of cage furniture according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the cage or item of cage furniture is formed entirely from a synthetic plastics material, preferably by moulding, and preferably as a single component.
4. A cage or an item of cage furniture according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the material comprising the cage or cage furniture is resistant to repeated autoclaving.
5. A cage or an item of cage furniture according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising polysulfone, polytherimide, and/or polycarbonate.
6. A cage or an item of cage furniture according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cage or item of cage furniture comprises coloured material.
7. A cage or an item of cage furniture according to claim 6, wherein the cage or cage furniture comprises red-coloured or red-tinted material.
8. A cage or an item of cage furniture according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the cage or item of cage furniture comprises a material which transmits less than 20% of visible light with a wavelength of less than 540nm.

9. A cage or item of cage furniture according to claim 8 comprising a material which transmits less than 20% of visible light with a wavelength of less than 560nm.
10. A cage or item of cage furniture according to claim 8 comprising a material which transmits less than 20% of visible light with a wavelength of less than 580nm.
11. A cage or item of cage furniture according to any one of claims 6-10, which comprises a material which transmits at least 60% of visible light with a wavelength of 600nm or more.
12. A cage or item of cage furniture according to any one of claims 6-11, which comprises a material which transmits, on average, at least 20% of light with a wavelength in the range 580-590nm.
13. An item of cage furniture in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, comprising a substantially right-angled triangular shaped floorless shelter.
14. An item of cage furniture in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, provided with fixing means to restrict the movement of the cage furniture within a cage.
15. An item of cage furniture in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, comprising at least two entrances.
16. A method of making a cage or an item of cage furniture, the method comprising the step of forming said cage or item of cage furniture, so as to comprise a material which is transparent or translucent to a human observer, but is perceived as being substantially darkened or opaque by a caged animal.
17. A method according to claim 16, performance of which results in production of a cage or an item of cage furniture in accordance with any one of claims 1-15.

18. A cage or an item of cage furniture made by the method of claim 16.
19. A cage or an item of cage furniture, substantially as herein described with reference to, and as shown in, the accompanying drawings.
20. A method of making a cage or an item of cage furniture, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
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